

Love,  
Life  
&  
Hope  
for Kenyans living  
with HIV and AIDS



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# Upendo Moments

**In the News . . .**

## Holiday Marketplace



Friends, family and members of the community came through the doors of the Wheaton Franciscan Motherhouse early on Thursday, November 10 to shop and enjoy the 2011 Holiday Marketplace. An assortment of homemade breads, cookies, cupcakes, muffins, apricot bars and more lined the bake sale tables. With the smell of fresh coffee brewing and popcorn popping, many sat around the transformed Jubilee Room enjoying the company, conversation and the Upendo Village video. Beyond the Jubilee Room, visitors delighted in the special crafts made by the Sisters and crafters of Upendo Village. A steady flow of shoppers throughout the day found great deals and presents for the upcoming holidays.

Thanks to the raffle, bake sale, Upendo Village crafts, Sisters' crafts, white elephant sale and outright donations, more than \$6000 was raised to benefit the ongoing, critical needs of Upendo Village. We could not have achieved this without the help of our dedicated volunteers, bakers and other supporters. Thank you for taking the time and putting forth the effort to make this event a success. Inspired by this year's success, plans for the 2012 Holiday Marketplace are already in the works!

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**

## Lenten Sharing



Upendo Village is privileged to have been chosen as the 2012 Lenten Project for Immaculate Conception Parish in Elmhurst. We look forward to sharing Upendo Village stories, successes and needs with Father Tom Paul and his parish community at the beginning of the holy season of Lent. During this reflective time in the Catholic tradition we are in awe of God's overflowing love for each of us and we are called to pay it forward, as Christ's hands and heart on earth, reaching out to all his children, especially those lacking basic needs.



## Sister Florence Adds February Visit

Great news — Sister Florence will visit the United States in February to personally help launch Immaculate Conception Parish's Lenten Project. Her travel plans are in process. Tentatively, Sr. Florence will arrive February 8 for at least two weeks. During her February stay, while schools and universities are in session, we hope to schedule more speaking arrangements where Sr. Florence can spread awareness of Upendo Village and our mission. Please contact Marybeth at 630.909.6604 or [mmedrano@wheatonfranciscan.org](mailto:mmedrano@wheatonfranciscan.org) if you are aware of possible speaking venues. Sr. Florence and Sr. Francisca will return in late April and stay through June. Please think about how you can help to make their visits successful for the needs of Upendo Village.

# Current Events:



## Solar Cookers

Solar ovens are a considerable benefit for the families of Upendo Village, especially those living in displacement camps, and for the environment. Thanks to donors, Upendo Village has provided solar cookers and a day of training for many families, including those living in nearby displacement camps. There is no electricity in the rural areas Upendo Village serves, hence solar cookers harness the power of the sun to bake and boil food. This is a convenient, efficient and safer way to cook.

Without solar cookers, women (including elderly guardians) are forced to walk miles to pay for and carry charcoal, sticks and water – often at risk of personal safety. This practice of burning sticks and charcoal contributes to deforestation, which then worsens drought. In addition, there is concern for burns and respiratory problems for the young children that are exposed. Every solar cooker added to Upendo Village immensely helps the people of Upendo and the environment. We can't say thank you enough to our caring donors! You make a difference.



*Clients of Upendo Village in an all day training session learn how to use the solar cookers.*



**Wishing  
you a  
blessed  
holiday  
season!**

## A Letter from Our Executive Director

*Thanksgiving overflows in our hearts as the Wheaton Franciscans and the Assumption Sisters of Nairobi (especially Sister Florence) join me in extending gratitude to each donor and volunteer, to those who guide and share expertise, to parishes, synagogues, civic clubs and others, who have welcomed us to share our stories and to all who hold Upendo Village in prayer. Who can measure the harvest of so many caring supporters? We wish each of you and your loved ones blessed and joy-filled holidays.*

*– Sister Theresa Langfield*

## Holiday Appeal

Our holiday mailing should have reached you by now. We pray that needs of the children and grandmothers of Upendo Village are a top priority on your giving list! Please join actively in this ministry by sharing about the urgent needs of Upendo Village's hungry families with others, who might help in some way.



## New College Students

We have wonderful news — three more Upendo Village students have received sponsorship to attend college. One began college in October 2011 and two others will begin in January 2012. This brings the total number of sponsored college students to nine!

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